

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure which is on the attached sheet.

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention concerns a method for modifying the growth characteristics of plants by modulating expression in a plant of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a TAD protein and/or modulating activity in a plant of a TAD protein. The invention also relates to transgenic plants having modified growth characteristics, which plants have modulated expression of a nucleic acid encoding a TAD protein fragment.